was and what to do with me. Finally he decided to turn the affair over to the Soviet. An emergency session of the Soviet opened an hour later in the waiting room of the railroad station. The chairman asked me to present my point of view. After a long discussion the Soviet decided that, since Luga was neutral, everybody was free to join either side in the civil war and that my detention had been illegal.

I intended to drive to Pskov at once, but my chauffeurs refused to start before dawn. They were short of gas, the road was bad, the lights were out of order, one of the tires needed to be replaced. In brief, they had their own ideas of neutrality. I had to spend the night in Luga, at the station. During the night three echelons passed eastward unmolested, and I phoned Krasnov of their movement. In the morning I got a wire from General Baranovsky or someone on his staff: The situation in Pskov was extremely tense. The echelons could be handled, but my arrival and attempt to expedite the operation might provoke violence. I had no choice but to return to Gatchina. Then I discovered that my car and chauffeur had disappeared during the night. A locomotive whistled, an eastbound train was ready to leave. I squeezed myself into a crowded coach.

TRUCE AGREEMENT

In front of the Gatchina station I met a group of officers carrying guns and cartridge belts. One of them shouted to me, "The Bolsheviks are in the palace. Kerensky has fled!" Another broke in angrily, "They are looking for you in the palace, Mr. Commissar. When it comes to an accounting, no politician is there!"

The officers were on their way to the armored train. I went to the palace. Apparently nothing had changed there. The same confusion, the same crowd. I found Krasnov alone in his room. He was sitting at his desk, making notes on a small pad—his account of the last operation. He told me what had happened in Gatchina during my brief absence. At dawn, two sailors with white flags approached the Cossack sentries at the Tsarskoe-Gatchina highway and offered a truce: The Cossacks were to withdraw from the civil war; in return, the Soviets would assure them free conduct to their homes, with their officers, arms, and horses.[14] The sentries told the sailors that they could not negotiate with them but agreed to take them to their committee. At once the rumor spread in the task force that the campaign was over.

Krasnov went to Kerensky and advised him to drive to the Smolny with a white flag. Kerensky refused and, in the general confusion,

[14] In Cossack regiments, horses and small arms were the private property of the men.